

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Latvia

SUBJECT Medico-Scientific Departments of the University
of Latvia/Comment on Faculty Member Kirshenstain

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1. [redacted] the exact street addresses of buildings at the University of Latvia in Riga, [redacted] the approximate locations of most of the buildings connected with the medico-scientific departments. The main building of the university was on Rainis Blvd. The office of the president of the university was in this building and the faculties of philosophy, philology, theology, architecture, engineering, mechanics, economics and law were also there.
2. The chemistry building was on Kronvalds Blvd in a park behind the National Theater. The faculty of chemistry and the department of pharmacy were located there. The main building for the faculty of medicine, known as the Anatomical, was on Brivibas Blvd, near Elizabete Street. The office of the dean was in this building. Also in the building were the department of anatomy, the museum of anatomy and the department of microbiology, pharmacology and physiology.
3. The First Municipal Hospital, on Aizsargu Street, had facilities for training in medicine, surgery, neurology, skin diseases, venereology, otorhinolaryngology and tuberculosis. The Second Municipal Hospital, where some of the medical students received training, was at 13 Pilsonu Street. Here there were facilities for work in medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology and pathology. At the Municipal Mental Hospital of Sarkankalna medical students studied psychiatry. At the State Hospital of Aleksandra Augustumi students received training in ophthalmology.
4. The Serum Institute of the university was located on the Kleist Estate about eight miles outside Riga toward the sea. Here they produced all kinds of serums, vaccines and insulin. The Serum Institute was quite large and had many animals to work with. A new kind of vaccine against epidemic typhus was produced at the institute. The vaccine was prepared from the virus (Rickettsia) on the lice which carried the disease. Extensive work in veterinary medicine was also done at the institute.
5. Kirshenstain, who was the President of the Latvian Republic under the Soviets until sometime in 1960, was at one time the head of the Serum Institute. Kirshenstain, who was a political person, was thought of as a good scientist at one time, but he gradually lost the respect of other scientists. He was always inclined toward Communism, even before the Soviet occupation of Latvia.
6. The Institute of Microbiology did not actually exist as a separate institute, but the work in microbiology was divided between the Serum Institute and the Faculty of Medicine.

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1			